



GARS *News*

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February, 1995

The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Page 1

The PRESIDENT'S PEN

by Howard Gould, W4NVF

Well if you didn't attend the last meeting you missed the greatest of them all to date. We had 97 people packed into Williams Seafood, and I mean packed! We had some unusual things take place such as yours truly handling the cost of the buffet and running back and forth to the kitchen making sure that the food was coming.

The result is that we went through another learning lesson with William's Seafood and it's management. Next month, I will not handle the cost of the buffet by taking everyone's money, I will leave that up to Williams Seafood.

We may find a wall knocked out and more seating arrangements made for us and that's no joke folks. I heard few complaints about the cost of the buffet which was \$12.00 including tip and tax. The food was so good and plenty of it for all you could eat. The only thing I had some input on was the lack of broiled or baked selections which we will address with management.

The program on VHF contesting was well accepted by all and everyone took in the events with great interest. We wish to thank the Sugar Hill Group for giving us their time to put on this excellent program for the GARS members.

We took on 16 more new members-which is becoming a regular monthly addition. I welcome them to GARS and hope their stay with us will be filled with new friendships and that they will participate in our club activities, making us that much stronger. I am sure David, KA4KKF our Activities Manager will welcome any help on his up and coming activities planned for GARS.

I am pleased with the club's progress towards a finer communications network, which is taking place under Phase 1,2 and 3. A realistic approach

was given to the building up of the system in a recent meeting with the Repeater Advisory Committee in which many things were discussed and agreed upon. There will be some expenditures needed to support the changes that will take place over a period of time and every effort will be made to see that the equipment choices are made with durability in mind.

I wish to thank David, KD4PCK who took on the job of overhauling the spare power supply that GARS owns which is an Astron 35A. David donated a lot of his time and expense to fix a major problem with the supply that had been worked on but never fixed. This supply will be used at Lawrenceville

(Prez, Continued on p. 6)

David Adcock, KA4KKF

GARS Ham of the Month

by Pickett Cummins, AD4S

The GARS Ham of the Month is David Adcock, KA4KKF. David is a real, died-in-the-wool Georgia native and hails originally from Monroe.

David was involved in sports and scouting while he was growing up in Monroe and was always interested in electronics. He read a lot on the subject. As a scout, he built crystal sets (that worked).

Following high school, David spent a couple of years at West Georgia College and then went into the Navy for eight years. He wound up in electronics as an E6, Electronics Technician First Class. As you would imagine of David, he did not chose just any old assignment, he spent his time in submarines.

(Ham, Continued on p. 2)

GARS - "The Biggest Little Club in Georgia"

GARS adds SIXTEEN new members at the January meeting! - See page 2

Alford Club Needs Support

by Howie Gould, W4NVF

Lee Flack, KD4HPD and his Xyl, Mary Ann have joined GARS again. Lee is the VP of the Alford Radio Club, and made a plea to our club for help at the last meeting.

As some of you may not be aware, the Alford Club is going through some rough times with the possibility of losing their repeater site at the top of the rock. Due to some politics, the Olympic committee would like to see the top of the rock clean of all existing antennas and there are other factors involved, but we need to give our support in any way

(Alford, Continued on p. 2)

Williams Seafood Closes

GARS May Have to Meet Elsewhere This Month

According to our Executive Committee, Williams Seafood has closed down in Duluth. The manager hopes to take it over, and wants us to keep meeting there, but this may not occur quick enough for our February meeting.

Tune in to the GARS Tuesday night nets to confirm the location for this month's meeting. Feel free to call any of the officers for more information as the meeting date draws closer.

It will also be announced on the repeater and on the talk-in on meeting night. Come join us! ♦

GARS News

GARS News is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, submit *News* items in ASCII format by posting a private message to Dean Matthews on the *GARS* conference of the Scientific Atlanta BBS (806-7372), then use the Save Attached save command, which will prompt you to upload your ASCII file. Art can be accepted in TIFF or PCX format on IBM compatible disk.

Contact the Editor for odd format compatibility, or other means of transfer. Deadline for article submissions is the first Thursday of each month.

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GARS NEWS is created on a MCC 486/DX2-66 computer running Lotus AMI Pro Word Processor for Windows under MSDOS 6.2 and Windows for Workgroups 3.11. The master copy is printed on a Canon LBP-4 Laser Beam printer and photocopied.

The *GARS* address is:

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JOIN GARS

Membership dues for the 1994-1995 are:

\$25.00 for Individual Memberships
\$35.00 for Family Memberships

Dues reduced for mid-year additions, see membership application for details, or...

Call Jack Herndon, KE4EMA at 995-0438 for more information about joining *GARS*.

(Alford, Continued from p.12)

we can to help Alford Memorial Radio Club retain their position on Stone Mountain.

I suggest that you write letters to your State Senator and local Representatives asking them to intervene in this political nightmare to preserve the community involvement that the repeater has sustained over the years with the backing of the Alford Club members serving as free emergency operators for health and welfare in not only their time but equipment. You can call Lee at 979-2128 and ask him how you can help.

(Ham, Continued from p. 1)

His specialty was navigational equipment. It was up to David to keep the equipment working that was used to determine "where are we". His duty stations while in the Navy were confined to Virginia and North Carolina.

David worked on all types of navigation equipment including sonar, loran and Doppler shift satellite equipment. He also worked on SINS which is an inertial navigation system using a platform with multiple gyroscopes.

When David mustered out of the Navy he went to work for Storage Technology and is a field engineer and is qualified to work on all of their equipment. STK is a vendor of IBM plug compatible tape and disk drives and printers. Their most famous piece of equipment is called a SILO and is a round silo featuring robotic tape mounting and dismounting.

While he was in the Navy, David met an officer who was a ham through their shared interest in Shetland Sheep Dogs. They both belonged to the same dog club. This officer gave David his novice exam and David received his first and only call sign, KA4KKF. Before his ticket arrived, David acquired a Heath DX60B with VFO (very rare indeed) and a Radio Shack DX100 Receiver (I know, there was a Heath transmitter by the same name). His first antenna was a Hustler vertical.

When David went to upgrade his license, he had to go to Norfolk. Interestingly enough, the FCC Engineer-in-

(Ham, Continued on p. 4)

GARS GROWS GREATLY BY GOLLY!

A whopping **SIXTEEN** new members were voted in at the January meeting!

Welcome these Hams to GARS:

Lee Flack, KD4HPD (T)
from Lithonia

Mary Ann Flack, KE4AXE (T)
from Lithonia

Carolyn Thigpen, KD4ZPM (G)
from Grayson

Ronnie Sullens, KE4TVC (T)
from Loganville

M. Earl Whatley, KE4TXZ (T)
from Lawrenceville

Tom Mills KM4DY (E)
from Lawrenceville

Phyllis T. Mills N5XUJ (E)
from Lawrenceville

Sharon Foster KM4IH (A)
from Duluth

Douglas R. McAlexander N4HNN (A)
from Sugar Hill

Robert (Bob) W. Redwine N4YWF(T+)
from Norcross

Arthur (Dick) R. Sandberg N9SXJ (T)
from Atlanta

Pierre E. Decatrel WB1EZK (T+)
from Norcross

Walter R. Bryant WB4PQQ (G)
from Lawrenceville

Richard R. Curtis KE4VDL (T)
from Lilburn (new call!)

Associate Members Awaiting Calls or Studying:

Beverly Bryant from Lawrenceville
David White from Dunwoody

Welcome these new members at the next club meeting or on the air! -ED ♦

Six-Dollar Console

by Dean Matthews, AD4OD

We all have our own conception of the "perfect" setup for a ham shack. We arrange, re-arrange move shift and re-wire our setups constantly. Newcomers gain privileges as they upgrade and this means the addition of more gear for frequencies earned. Old timers change their shack around too, due to the addition of self-bought Christmas presents and hamfest "treasures", though after a while a basic format seems to evolve suiting that persons personal taste.

For myself, I have always envisioned building my equipment into a console - with tons of knobs, displays and switches to control the direction of audio and RF anywhere my heart desires and the touch of a button.

A couple years ago, at the Lawrenceville Hamfest, I stopped dead in my tracks! There it was, so thick in dust that you could hardly see the color. A console. THE console. Just the right length, depth and height, with a small desktop in front of the perfectly sloped rack.

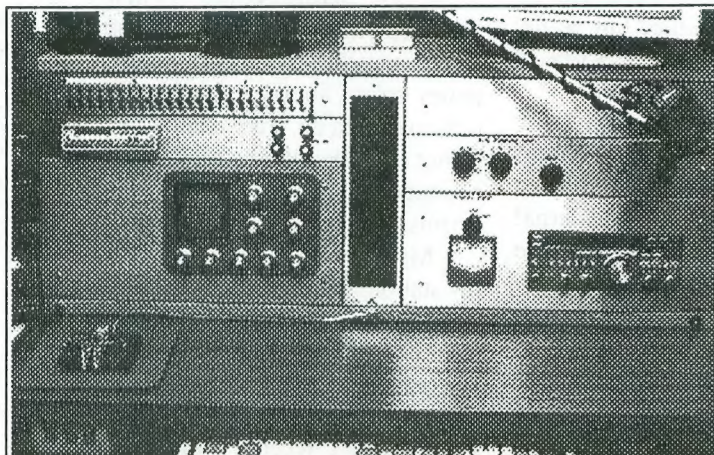
There was a big drawer in the front that contained a record turntable (for the Nintendo generation, this was the predecessor to the compact disk player), but I figured I could remove all that. There was four banks of lever-switches on the front that looked perfect for audio switching.

Here's a... "CAN I HELP YOU?..." the owner of this treasure caught me pulling out the drawer and had the expression of a man who had found a fish to buy his boat anchor.

"WHAT IS THIS THING?", I asked - not particularly wanting to know - but not wanting to seem so at-

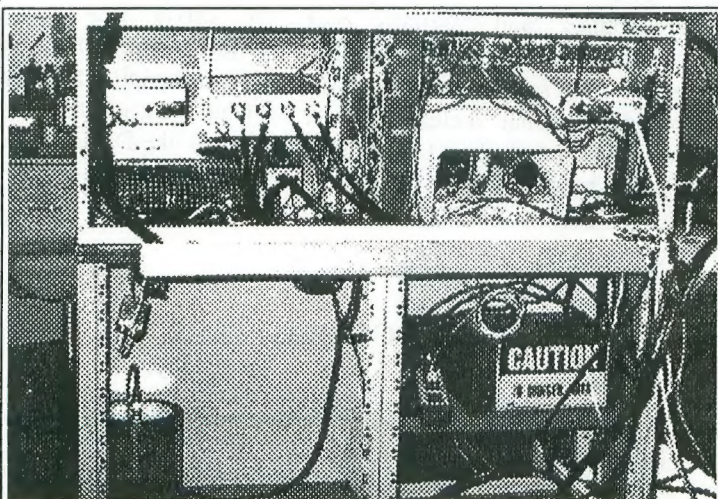
tached that this guy could jack the price up on me.

"IT WAS A ELEMENTARY SCHOOL P.A. SYSTEM, he replied, I'M ASKING TWENTY BUCKS FOR IT."



Front view of finished console. KAM is on the left under the switch bank, SB-610 Monitor scope below it. Center vertical section is full of speakers. Yaesu FT-757GXII lower right by SWR meter, Phasing unit and Tuner-Tuner are in center on right. No components were physically altered for mounting. Switches on lower left power up three outlet strips supplying the console..

I am now having a little trouble controlling myself, but not wanting to leave any money "on the table" I offer some lame excuse - and my counter-offer of five bucks, hoping no one was standing behind me to outbid me on this incredible treasure.



Rear view of console shown with covers off. Dummy load and 35 Amp power supply in lower section. Three bulkhead connectors at right allow easy disconnect for storms. Big advantage of console is ability to have easy access to all wiring and rear of components. Panels lift off without tools for access. Rig can be removed in one minute for mobile operation. All leads are labeled.

"HOW ABOUT SIX BUCKS?" he retorted obviously tired of carting it from hamfest to hamfest.

"SIX BUCKS AND YOU HELP LOAD IT IN MY TRUCK - I HAVE A BAD BACK."

I shoved the money in his hand before he could finish telling me to go get my truck! A half-dozen hams watched us load it in my truck, and several said they had seen it-wishing they hadn't procrastinated in dealing for it. I even turned down an offer for it - right in front of the guy I bought it from!

I left that hamfest faster than gas goes through a funnel. My dumbfounded non-ham neighbor helped me get it in the house after I stripped off the turntable drawer and a real big power supply/ amplifier, which was half the weight of the thing.

I had the thing completely gutted in a couple of hours, leaving one switch bank in for my use and saving another for future expansion. The other two sold to other buddies, doubling the return on my initial investment. The turntable went to a friends daughter, and the amplifier/power supply to a friends brother's church. The gutting process also netted me hundreds of feet of shielded audio cable that I could use for all my hook-ups.

The accompanying photos show the finished console. Without defacing a single piece of my gear, I mounted my Yaesu FT-757GXII, Diawa SWR Bridge, Palomar Tuner-Tuner and L/C phasing unit into the right panels.

Along with the switch bank, the left side houses my SB-610 Monitor Scope, a KAM all-mode and my VHF packet radio, along with volume controls for each of the speakers and for headphones.

(Console, continued on p.4)

(Console, continued from p.3)

New additions on the left panel not shown in the photo are a Timewave DSP unit and MFJ Voice Keyer. The vertical center section houses four speakers to handle all the audio, and is well shielded from the RF compartments.

I use no connections on the front of my rig, a boom microphone plugs into a mic. connector on the top of the console. A headphone jack is mounted low on the left panel face, and the key/keyer jack is in the center of the face down low.

With a 90 deg. key plug, my Bencher paddles can be easily moved from left to right hand operation with no cable cluttering the desktop. An external fuse holder on the lower right panel face allows quick replacement of the Tuner-Tuner fuse if I inadvertently transmit through it.

The switch bank really "makes" this setup. The keyer wires go through a criss-cross switch in the "bank" so the dots and dashes can be moved to either paddle for guest operators, or the KAM can be switched in for computer CW keying. The headphones can be switched on used with the speaker on, a feature I always wish my rig had. I can select manual PTT, Microphone PTT, or foot-switch PTT or even disable all PTT to prevent accidental keying when using the Tuner-Tuner.

Another switch allows monitoring VHF packet signals. And a series of switches allows patch-in/out capability for KAM, boom microphone, 2-tone oscillator, Soundblaster, Timewave DSP unit and MFJ Voice Keyer.

There are two power sources in the console, 12 volt batteries under my house are wired in to a distribution block to power things left on 24 hours a day, like the VHF Packet station and VHF/UHF "base" HT. An Astron 35 amp supply is mounted on a shelf in the rear, near my cantenna dummy load and can be switched on from one of three illuminated master power switches located below the desk on the left side. These switches actually energize three power strips, allowing my whole station to be powered up, from one place and offering a single-plug disconnect from the commercial mains during electrical storms.

My computer is an integral part of my station, with the keyboard and mouse in a drawer under the desk, and monitor atop the console. The CPU sits just to my left for easy reach. Among its many ham functions are Packet, HF digital modes and I recently connected it to control my HF rig.

One of the biggest advantages to the console is easy access to the rear wiring, and to keep it all neat. One day I would like to have a large enough place to put it against a false wall, so all wiring would be exposed, but in another room.

It is a shame, with all the hard work and planning, when unscheduled visitors come to our shack they have to step around piles of "works-in-progress", "project supplies" and "partially read technical literature." We also invariably have to clear off a seat for them to sit in. If the adage is true that "a clean shack is a sign of a sick mind" then I must be a poster boy for mental health. ♦

(Ham, Continued from p. 1)

Charge there is Jerry Freeman, W4JJ.

Jerry just happened to be the FCC engineer that administered this writer's General License exam in New Orleans in 1961. He had a five call at the time.

While David has a Kenwood TS520SE and a vertical on HF, most of his work is on VHF/UHF. (He does have a working 160 meter dipole). Listed is the plethora of really short wave equipment:

1. ICOM 251 - SSB for 2 meters.
2. HA6 and HA2 Hallicrafters transverters that work with the 520SE. (folks, this is real museum quality stuff).
3. 220 Hamtronics transverter and 1296 DownEast transverter.
4. TR9500 Kenwood all mode for 430.

Interestingly enough, David has Yagi's for all these bands. David also has a 10 meter SSB mobile rig that he converted from an 11 meter rig.

David's favorite ham activities are UHF/VHF contesting. He did admit that he liked Field Day. Packet is installed in the shack using a Baycom interface and David is on 145.03 at all times which means you can leave him a message any time you want.

David is married to Sharon and has one son who is 18 years old and in college. This is David's fourth year in GARS and he is starting his second year as Activities Manager. If you have not met David, look him up at the next GARS meeting or activity and tell him hello. Also tell him thanks from all of us for his great job with GARS activities. It is hams like David that make this such a great hobby. ♦

Contact GARS

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DXCC Awards Checker:

AF4Y	Frank Deak	978-6546
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LATE BREAKING NEWS FLASH!!!

by Odie, Staff Lackey

The officers of GARS, exhausted from a year full of events, huge membership growth and wonderful changes like the new repeater, had to call a special emergency meeting of the Executive Committee to resolve a dilemma of incredible magnitude.

It seems a GARS member (name withheld to protect the innocent) sent in his dues for next year... six whole weeks before they were due, and a full three months before the membership terminating, newsletter cutoff, phone patch termination drop-dead-deadline!

At a hastily convened private session, the Executive Committee formed an ad hoc committee to study this members unprecedented action, and dispatched Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD to ARRL headquarters in Newington Connecticut to discuss the problem with top League officials.

The Executive Committee also authorized a visibly shaken GARS treasurer Charles Evans, WA4QYY to seek legal and accounting guidance on how to best manage the imbroglio.

When pressed for a statement, GARS President Howard Gould, W4NVF was at a loss for words. Secretary Ike Chapman hastily stepped in to answer while Howie composed himself: "It's entirely too early to comment on such a delicate matter", he said.

"Our members can rest assured that club officers will spare no effort in their unceasing fight on members' behalf to resolve the multitudinous and far-reaching ramifications of the problems raised by this matter", Howie lugubriously added after regaining his senses.

Watch for further developments of this and other stories in future issues of the GARS News.

(Apologies to Ralph Grover, NS2S, Editor of Peconic ARS "PARC Newsletter" whose wonderful original article I butchered to create this one -ED.)

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society Monthly Meeting Minutes January 19, 1994

Officers in attendance: Howie Gould W4NVF, President; Larry Osborne KD4QFD, Vice President; Ike Chapman, KE4GYM, Secretary; Charles Evans WA4QYY, Treasurer; David Adcock, KA4KKF, Activities Manager.

The meeting was called to order at 19:31 local time by President Gould at the Williams Seafood Restaurant in Duluth.

Howie recognized Duane, KD4KCR who discussed the upcoming code classes. The classes will begin on Monday, February 6 at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. The classes will start at 19:30 local time instead of 19:00 local as previously announced.

Howie then asked all members and visitors to introduce themselves. The sign-in sheet had 85 members and visitors present but a head count showed 97 in attendance.

David, KA4KKF introduced Jim Holt, N3AHI of the Four Landers VHF/UHF Contest Club for the program. Jim introduced other members of his group that were present, Charles Hooper, AB4RU; Fred Runkle, K4KAZ; Allen Chapman, KD4PZU; and Charles Osborne, WD4MBK. Jim gave a slide show and lecture on VHF/UHF contesting.

After a break, the business meeting was resumed by President Gould. Howie introduced Lee Flack, KD4HPD, Vice President of the Alford Memorial Radio Club. Lee asked for assistance of the members of GARS to write the governor and other state officials to bring the efforts of amateur radio to the attention of the state in an effort to keep the 146.760 repeater on the top of Stone Mountain. Lee also invited all GARS members to come to an Alford meeting on the second Tuesday of each month and to check into the Dekalb ARES net on each Monday at 20:00 local time on the 145.450 repeater.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved as published in the GARS Newsletter. Charles, WA4QYY, gave the treasurers report.

Howie announced that the East Atlanta LAN had donated \$150.00 at the January executive committee meeting to assist with the power bills at the Snellville repeater site. Howie also announced that the executive had voted to donate \$100.00 to the ARRL fund for reprinting the Archie comic books.

Howie announced that Ham 95 tickets would be available for \$6.00 tonight, a savings of \$2.00 on the price at the door.

The Rookie Radio Q & A session was a discussion of the various types of mobile antennas available for UHF/VHF mobile operation.

The HRO gift certificates were won by Mike, WB2SQS and Bill, KE4EIH.

Carolyn, KD4ZPN asked for assistance in setting up an amateur radio demonstration at George Washington Academy in Monroe. The school has 670 students in grades K-12. Charles, AD4MI volunteered to coordinate the activity and asked for any volunteers to call him.

Larry, KD4QFD gave a report on the tower and it's progress. There will be a tower net on Wednesday, January 25 at 19:00 local time to discuss the next work party.

Steve Finger, KB4DNQ asked for volunteers to assist with communications for the Georgia Indoor Special Olympics on February 10, 11, and 12. The only requirements for volunteers is a ham license and a HT. Anyone interested can contact Steve at 979-4712.

Howie, reported on the progress with the county and the new antenna site at Snellville. The amendment to the agreement with the county has been approved by the executive committee and forwarded to county. The amendment is now waiting for approval from the county commission at their next meeting.

Howie gave a status on the Mark 4 repeater, Kendecom is going to ship a replacement processor board to us and then the repeater must be reprogrammed. Howie also gave a brief report on the Repeater Advisory Committee which had met the previous Saturday.

Jack, KE4EMA, Membership Chairman presented 16 applications for GARS membership. A motion was made and seconded to accept the applications and the was passed without opposition.

The list of new GARS members is as follows:

Lee Flack, KD4HPD (T); Mary Ann Flack, KE4AXE (T); Carolyn Thigpen, KD4ZPM (G); Ronnie Sullens, KE4TVC (T); M. Earl Whatley, KE4TXZ (T); Tom Mills KM4DY (E); Phyllis T. Mills N5XUJ (E); Sharon Foster KM4IH (A); Douglas R. McAlexander N4HNNH (A); Robert (Bob) W. Redwine N4YWF(T+); Arthur (Dick) R. Sandberg N9SXJ (T); Pierre E. Decatrel WB1EZK (T+); Walter R. Bryant B4PQQ (G); Associates: Beverly Bryant, David White and Richard R. Curtis.

Johnny, W4WKP presented the report of the nominating committee by nominating the following GARS members:

President: Howie Gould, W4NVF; Vice President: Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Secretary: Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Treasurer: Cheryl McClure, KE4JKM; Activities Manager: David Adcock, KA4KKF; The floor was then opened by President Gould for other nominations but none were made.

The meeting was adjourned by President Gould at 21:39 local time. ♦

QUA

1st Tuesday,

Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House on Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd. in Dunwoody. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by meeting. TI-145.41-

1st Wednesday - HamWatch

Shoney's 11690 Alpharetta Hwy., Roswell (about 2 1/2 miles North of Holcomb Bridge Rd across from North Fulton Hospital) Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting is at 7:30 PM

1st Thursday

N.E. Georgia Amateur Radio Club

Jefferson Civic Center, off Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson. Meeting is at 6:30PM. TI-147.225+

1st Thursday - Atlanta Radio Club

Kitteredge Magnet School, North Druid Hills Rd. and Briarcliff. 6:00PM. Meeting is at 7:30PM TI-146.82-

2nd Wednesday

North Fulton Radio League

Cherokee Cattle Company, 11208 Alpharetta Hwy. Dinner at 6:00PM. Meeting at 7:30PM TI-145.47-

2nd Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting at 7:30PM. TI-146.76-

2nd Saturday

East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at 10:00AM. TI-145.41-

3rd Thursday

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Williams Seafood, 3560 Buford Hwy, Just north of Pleasant Hill Rd.. Dinner begins around 6:00PM, and last through the program and meeting which follow. TI-147.075+ ♦

(Prez, Continued from p. 1)

after some modifications are made by Eddie, WD4JEM to use it in conjunction with our battery back up system.

This month lets just talk a little about what you would like to do as a club to make it more interesting and fun for you? If there is anything that will down a club it's inactivity.

We are presently involved with some middle schools to provide some radio demonstrations as a way for the young folks to get hands-on experience of the fun of being a ham radio operator and the world it opens up to them. We are covering parades, bike races, ham-fests, field days, and whatever other local events that we get wind of.

For the meetings we are trying to put together programs of interest to all of you, which is a job in itself because we really don't what program subjects everybody likes best.

What we need folks, is input. If we are pleasing everybody that would be a miracle. Please take the time to give us some suggestions of programs you would like to see at the club meetings and activities you would like to see us get involved in for outdoor fun. We do listen to you - so give us some input.

We are blessed with the addition of some new members who are tied into the ARRL, and at the moment I am speaking of Tom, KM4DY. Tom has a fantastic background in emergency communications and is the Assistant Director for the ARRL Southeast Region. We welcome Tom, and we know he has a world of information about the League to pass on to us.

Member support on the weekly GARS net is appreciated and it makes the job of net control more interesting. John, KE4KPV is doing a fantastic job as Net Control. Of course, he is looking for help to fill in for him from time to time. It is through this learning process that you learn how to polish yourself up and prepare for bigger things down on the HF bands. So volunteer if you can find the time. You will find it very rewarding indeed.

The same holds true for the code practice net. Cheryl, KE4JKM has some easy format for the code practice net she is willing to pass out to any interested

person wanting to take the plunge. Give it a shot. What do you have to lose?

Remember to come to the next meeting for the elections of officers. It is important that you have a voice to say who represents you for 1995, so come prepared to cast your vote. In addition, come to enjoy yourself with friends over a nice dinner.

See you at the next meeting or on the air.

73 Howie W4NVF

A Not Very Funny Production ♦

LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE

An African chieftain flew to the United States to visit the President. A host of reporters and television camera operators met him at the airport. One of the reporters asked the chief if his flight had been comfortable. The chief made a series of weird noises — "screech, scratch, buzz, whistle, z-z-z-z" — then added in perfect English, "Yes, I had a very nice flight." Another reporter asked, "Chief, do you plan to visit the Washington Monument?" The chief made more noises: "Screech, scratch, buzz, whistle, z-z-z-z" — then said, "Yes, and I plan to visit the White House and the Capitol Building." "Where did you learn to speak such flawless English?" "Screech, scratch, buzz, whistle, z-z-z-z from the short-wave radio."

From the Delaware-Lehigh ARC "W3OK Corral"—Charence Snyder W3PYF Editor via ARNS News -ED ♦

For Sale:

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Bob Langley, KD4SHD

P.O. Box 1241

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Hooked on 160 Meters... Mobile!

or

(How to Get Stores While Enjoying the 'DC' Band)

by Jud Whatley, W4NZJ

Since I first listened to short-wave radio on my granddad's Zenith radio in the early 50's, I have been fascinated with the MF and lower HF frequencies with the typical fading conditions and static crashes. I found it exhilarating to strain and hear those faint commercial and amateur AM stations under the worst of conditions!

After I became licensed in the late 50's, it was difficult to operate on 160 because of the severe power restrictions in Georgia. Consequently, I concentrated my HF operating to 75 and 40 meters using my Viking Valiant and Heath Mohawk. Years would pass before my dreams would come true.

However, once the FCC started lifting these power restrictions in the early 80's, amateur rigs started again having 160 meter coverage, and I had sufficient room for an acceptable 160 meter antenna, I found myself longing to "return to the days of yesteryear" and the fascination of MF operation, especially mobile operation.

After some 30+ years following those days and nights on the Zenith, I finally got my chance to drop down to 160 when I got a Kenwood TS-50S to replace my Atlas 210X mobile rig. This highly efficient and compact transceiver covers 160 and the remaining amateur HF bands. I was now ready for the ultimate challenge... 160 meter mobiling! I knew it could be done because, I used to listen to some 160 AM mobile operators when I was a youngster.

However, I knew the antenna would present a major problem (length, tuning, efficiency, etc.) but I felt it was worth the effort and aggravation because this band offers good "ground and sky wave", and, of course, great QSOs. So I began

searching for a reasonably efficient mobile antenna that would still be "XYL approved!" (While my XYL, Mary, is also a Ham, she has her limits - and one is not to install a tall and ugly antenna on a sports car!) That was a dilemma. I wondered how I could resolve this.

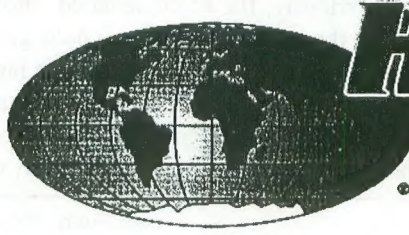
The solution was very simple! I purchased a new Chevy S-10 truck with an extended cab and with a column mounted automatic shift for maximum floor space for the rig, tuner, straight key, etc. When friends asked me why I stopped driving my sports car and got a

truck, I told them I needed a vehicle to haul my antenna! Also, I use the extended cab for various important accessories such as resonators and antenna bases, tools, and my golf clubs (two competing and painfully expensive hobbies).

My next purchase was a "Hustler-type" antenna with a sealed resonator from a firm in South Carolina. While not the most efficient, it is definitely more pleasing to the eyes. I use an MFJ Antenna Matcher at the base and an

160, Continued on p. 9

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Exit 1: I-93;
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SCANNING HOTLANTA - ACCESSORIES BY BOB LANGLEY, KD4SHD

Welcome to this month's column of VHF/UHF Scanning, which will cover some of the different accessories that can be used in the scanning hobby. The scanner and antennas are the basic, and most important components of any monitoring station. However, the utilization of accessories can make your monitoring sessions more productive, and much more enjoyable. Here are some suggestions for accessories that can be used in the scanning hobby.

The accessories listed in Table 1 can be purchased from any local Radio Shack store. The reason I only mention Radio Shack is the availability of merchandise and the ease of which to obtain it, since there is one on almost every street corner, and the items are easily found by catalog number. Several of the items must be combined to produce the desired result. For instance, the Universal Grip Mount can be mounted to the windshield suction mount to create a mobile scanner/handy-talkie holder for the car dashboard.

Just rest the grip mount on the dash, and it holds the scanner right in front of you, just to the side of the steering wheel. When a frequency is active, you will be able to see it on the screen and hear what is being said, since the mount holds the scanner facing you. You could add the CD adapter FM transmitter to it with Velcro and transmit what the scanner receives over your car stereo for improved sound (remember to use the mono to stereo adapter).

Or, you could use the lapel speaker and clamp it to the sun visor, with the chord going around the back side of the rear-view mirror. The only other things you will need to connect the grip to the suction mount is a couple of small nuts and bolts, available at your local hardware store.

If the transmitter is a bit pricey for you at \$39.99, check out the CD to Cassette adapter for \$19.99. Just connect a mono to stereo adapter and plug it into the speaker jack of the scanner and push

the cassette into the cassette deck in your car, and you have a great way to boost the sound from a scanner through your car's stereo system. This cassette adapter can also be purchased from other stores that sell car stereos.

Possibly one of the most important accessories for scanning is the tape recorder. This allows you to record things from the scanner while you are not there, to be played back later. These can be invaluable if you are trying to identify the use of a certain frequency during the day while you are at work.

Obviously, the voice actuated models are the most useful. One could go a step further and use a slowed-down tape recorder, which can record up to 6 hours on one side of a regular cassette tape. These are available from mail order, or

For a great antenna in a small package, try the amplified antenna from Radio Shack. It supplies 10 dB of gain up to 470 MHz, and 8 dB of gain above 470 MHz. That means 10 dB of gain for everything from low-band, to civilian and military aircraft, to police. The 8 dB gain works great on 800 MHz frequencies as well. It is a great all-around antenna, especially if you can't mount one outside. It comes with a 1/8 in. plug, so you will need Radio Shack adapters 274-326B and 278-254 to convert to BNC. They work great on the PRO-2004/5/6 series of base model scanners. This antenna should really be used only on base models, since handhelds may not be able to handle the added boost.

Multiple channel audio mixers can be used to mix several scanners into one output line, such as to a tape recorder. Volumes can be changed separately, and input channels can be turned off completely, leaving out certain scanners, such as the ones being used to search for new frequencies. An attenuating device should be used here as well, to step down the signal going to the tape recorder.

Other accessories that could be used include electronic organizers, such as the Casio Boss SF-8300, or the SF-7500. These are great for keeping frequencies and information at your fingertips. They can be put in a shirt pocket, so it's easier to carry these around than bulky notebooks. Stereo headphones or ear-buds can be used with the stereo to mono adapter for better sound and a more "discrete" look, since it may look like you are listening to a "Walkman". Two meter beams and Quads are perfect for the 138-150 MHz range.

Beams and Quad antennas for 70 cm should be quite useful in listening to the 400-470 MHz range. I hope this run-down of accessories helps you in getting the most out of your scanner monitoring sessions. ♦

TABLE 1 note: From 1995 catalog
ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE AT RADIO SHACK

<u>Catalog Description</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Price</u>
Universal grip mount	17-510	49.99
Windshield suction mount	270-034	7.99
CD Adapter (FM transmitter)	12-2051	39.99
Lapel Speaker	20-009	9.99
Amplified TV Antenna	15-1607	24.99
phono male to 1/8" female for amplified antenna	274-326B	1.89
Phono to BNC Adapter for amplified antenna	278-254	2.49
Voice actuated tape recorder (CTR-76)	14-1156	49.99
Voice actuated tape recorder (CTR-67)	14-1152	49.99
Mono Headset	20-210	9.99
CD to cassette adapter	12-1951	19.99
Stereo to Mono Adapter for anything with stereo	274-368	1.99
5 channel audio mixer	32-1101	79.99
4 channel audio mixer	32-1105	34.99

from Security World stores (there is one at Gwinnett Place Mall). The Craig model is only \$130. It has voice actuation, so there is almost no way you will run out of tape, unless it records a frequency that is constantly active. You will need some kind of attenuator to step down the signal from the scanner to the tape recorder. Otherwise, the play-back on the tape will be distorted and hard to understand.

160, Continued from p. 7

MFJ Mobile Tuner at the rig for careful matching and frequency flexibility.

I also use an "Outbacker" spring base which is very strong and rigid, and is able to withstand the extra load and stress. I then replaced the original shorter base with the longer Hustler 48-inch base to raise the impedance and to slightly increase the distance from the resonator and any surrounding metal. (Heck... at this frequency, I found that, like Bill, K4JJV found, I can sit in my truck on the roadside, transmit a key down signal, and count the number of vehicles passing by watching my VSWR bounce up and down!)

I took no chances by grounding all major parts of the vehicle and finally installed a Hustler quick disconnect because I knew that such a large antenna would quickly draw stares and thieves in downtown Atlanta. To tune the antenna,

I use the MFJ and Auttek Analyzers and tune it to the exact kHz. I found that the longer base raised the resonant frequency somewhat beyond the antenna's lower frequency range so I had to make a small capacity hat from printed circuit board to again lower it back to 1845 kHz.

In some cases I use another mobile antenna for longer trips. It is a motorized screwdriver antenna (80 - 10m) which I modified to cover 160 using a large "Bug Catcher" capacity hat. This antenna is the "cat's meow" because it is very convenient and allows me greater frequency AND mode flexibility. When I'm away from Atlanta traffic and on less crowded freeways, I sometimes operate CW using an old "Navy Pump Handle Key". However, I'll never be as proficient mobile CW Op as LeLand, W5KL, is! I think he may have set the standard.

How has mobiling on 160 worked? Other than the stares I often get from people looking at my odd antenna and the probable reduced gas mileage because of the noticeable wind drag, it been WONDERFUL!! During the late Fall and until early Spring when conditions are at their peak, I usually chat with several of my friends on/about 1845 kHz. each morning and afternoon while traveling to and from work. Some who normally ride along with me are: KN4JM, Art; W4NZS, Craven; W4VKK, Herb; W4TE, Doc; and W4AUP, Pete (to name just a few). My signal reports range from 5X5 - 5X9+ which is terrific! I have worked stations as far as Canada on SSB and up to New Hampshire on AM! Not bad for a few watts ERP! Sometimes, I simply enjoy listening because the humorous and

technically interesting QSOs on the "Gentleman's Band" seem to calm my tortured soul while navigating the frantic Atlanta freeways.

So, you can see that it's not impossible to operate mobile on 160. Why not join the fun and excitement, and cruise along with your many friends on the relaxing "Top Band" or try some DX if that strikes your fancy? Regardless, I guarantee that you will enjoy the fun and get accustomed to the stares at your weird antenna. Hope to see you there. ♦

Rookie Radio

by Cheryl McClure, KE4JKM

Well, we made it through "January". Are you ready for some new challenges? Here is what's coming up in February. Code class will be held every Monday night in February and March at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Building. If you walk in the main entrance, come straight back through the dinning room.

The class will be held in the private dinning room. We will begin at 7:30 P.M.. Duane, KD4KCR, will have you copying CW and upgrading your license before you realize it. You don't need to register for this class, just join us. Don't miss out on this one!

Also, in the works are introductory classes in DF (direction finding... as in foxhunts!) and packet radio. Unfortunately, I don't have the dates yet, but we will be scheduling them on a weekend

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(ROOKIE from p.9)

toward the end of February or the beginning of March. Stay tuned to the Tuesday night net for dates and times.

As always, if there is any facet of ham radio that you want to learn more about, please let me know and I will find someone to teach us.

Let me hear from you at 995-5159. See you in code class!

HERE and THERE

➤ After a man paid a fortune teller's fee of \$100, she said he was entitled to two questions.

"Isn't that a bit steep?" he asked.

"Yes," she said. "Now what is your second question?"

➤ Two fishermen sitting on a bridge bet on who could catch the first fish.


Then one, feeling a nibble, got so excited he fell off the bridge.

Said the other, "If your going to dive for them, the bet's off."

➤ Man must not allow the clock and the calendar to blind him to the fact that each moment of his life is a miracle and a mystery. -H.G. Wells

From the Engineers Club of San Jose "Dope Sheet" via the ARNS Bulletin-ED

*** SCRAMBLE ***

DAROI	 <p style="text-align: center;">THE SIGNAL A HAM OPERATOR DOES <u>NOT</u> WANT TO GET.</p>
NNTANA	
SACISSH	
VCOENI	
AREMEP	
EKPARSE	
TIDLAGI	

ANSWER

KE4PXX

NET NOTES

by John F. Sokol, KE4KPV

It has been a lot of fun being Net Control. I was quite surprised when Ike (KE4GYM) asked me if I would be interested in taking over the reins. I knew it would be tough to duplicate the job that Ike had done, but I figured I could add my own personality and be up to the task.

I have never suffered from "mic-fright" as I spent 14 years behind one before a career change moved me into the computer field. Here is a synopsis of activity for the GARS Want, Swap and Information Net, since December 27, 1994.

Date of Net	Alternate	Check-ins
Dec 27	KE4G	28
Jan. 03	W4WKP	37
Jan. 10	AC4PD	36
Jan. 17	AC4PD	42
Jan. 24	W4NVF	33

The net check-in record is 43, set on November 22. I am going to keep a extra sharpened pencil nearby, as I feel the net record will be shattered in the near future. I hope to hear you on the net soon.

If YOU would like to try your hand at being net control, contact John at his roster phone number - ED.

6-95

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ARES News

by Pat Runkle, KC4DOO

A new year has arrived and it is once again time to think about ARES classes for the winter months. These classes will be held at the Justice and Administration building on Langley drive in Lawrenceville, in Room "A."

Membership Class - Feb 15th 7:30PM - 9:00PM

New rosters should be ready at this time and a revised preamble for the ARES net will be available. All members, whether you have attended before or not, should make plans to attend this meeting. New members definitely need to plan to attend.

Message Handling/NTS Info - Feb 22nd 7:30pm-9:00pm

This class will give you the information in message handling and the NTS system and its operation. Again, all members should make plans to attend this meeting as everyone needs to know the format for messages that will be used during an emergency. This class will be taught by Tom Mills, KM4DY.

Reminder: The Gwinnett ARES Net is on every Wednesday night from 8:00-9:00. If you would like to be a net control for the evening, please contact Ike Chapman, KE4GYM and select your night. On Feb15th and 22nd there will be NO ARES NET due to the ARES classes.

There are some things coming up later on for ARES members and information will be available at a later date.

If you wish to join Gwinnett ARES, please call 945-6356 and leave your name and phone number or see Ike Chapman, KE4GYM at any GARS meeting for application forms.

See you at the meetings,
Pat Runkle KC4DOO

Scramble answers: RADIO ANTENNA, CHASSIS, NOVICE
AMPERE, SPEAKER, DIGITAL. "DISTRESS"

Thanks to Ted Carlough, KE4PXX for this treat!

HF ACTIVITY IDEAS

by Larry Osborne, KD4QFD

Since we are growing, we should consider more activities to the varied interests that are in the club. TIME TO WORK HF.

I have spoken with several folks who have come up with some splendid ideas - and we would like to have more. For starters, how about an "HF Day" or an "HF Weekend?" Folks who have HF equipment can be the control ops for those who do not have equipment or have not upgraded - maybe a few hours of letting folks talk to folks around the U.S. and the world.

Next, we can pick out a U.S. contest weekend, and do the same thing. Folks who can only work 10 meters have been disappointed lately - this would be their chance to get in and operate. How about a special event - this time having our HF hounds operate in shifts, but again having others join in? We would need a reason or event. The only thing mentioned so far is Button Gwinnett's birthday.

What is your idea? We could do our own contest - for a month - 3 months - or a year. How many states and countries worked during that time? I am grateful to the folks who came up with the ideas. I need to know what interest there is in any of these ideas, or if you have some of your own. I need the HF folks to let me know if they would be willing to give up some of their time to help the "youngsters." I need to hear from the new folks to see if they are interested in participating.

My evening phone is 972-1185 - call and let me know. ♦

GARS Member E-Mail Addresses

KE4GYM Ike Chapman	ike@lxe.com
KE4QNE Jenny Eberhardt	jbererha@tsdatl.remnet.rockwell.com
KS4LS Jack Herndon	jherndon@lanierwsm.atl.ga.us
AD4OD Dean Matthews	ad4od@aol.com
AD4UU Dave Livesay	dave_livesay@hpatc.desk.hp.com
KE4JKM Cheryl McClure	pcm5@cehehl1.em.cdc.gov
AD4PZ Joe Biddle	jbiddle@lanierwsm.atl.ga.us
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KD4VHG John Scott	john.scott@swsbbs.com
KE4EIH Bill Ahls	76625.3036@compuserve.com
KS4EV Steve Sims	sesims@lanierwsm.atl.ga.us
KA4KKF David Adcock	David_Adcock@stkamer.stortek.com
N4UCK Jim Altman	n4uck@wa4mei.radio.org

Detach and Mail

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CLASS (circle 1)

BIRTH DATE

ARRL Y/N

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E A G T+ T N
 E A G T+ T N
 E A G T+ T N

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 [Y] [N]
 [Y] [N]

[Y] [N]
 [Y] [N]
 [Y] [N]

Check Interests:

[] -Class instruction [] -Field Day operation [] -Repeater maintenance [] -GARS club booth staffing [] -Community events [] -Emergency [] -Administrative [] -Fund raisers
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Mail your completed application with check made out to GARS to: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 88 Lilburn, Ga 30226



METRO AREA TEST SESSIONS

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI-VEC Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 623-9803
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road, Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758
Roswell ARRL-VEC St Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM - George White, KN4NG 361-6850
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt Bldg 7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM - Mark Swicord, KD4EYF - 975-1309
First Presbyterian Church 183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM - Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759
Walton EMC 3645 - Lenora Church Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - Stn Mtn CA-VEC Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160
Stone Mountain Methodist Church - 5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56 Whitlock Ave, Room 319

4th Sunday - 2:30PM - N Atlanta ARRL-VEC - John King, AB4GK - 381-5291
Episcopal Church of the Atonement - Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM QRV ARRL-VEC Shirley Durham, KR4KO - 949-9025
United Way Service Center - 6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday GARS W5YI-VEC - 7:00PM - St John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Rd, Lilburn
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362 Headphones!

HAMFEST CALENDAR

Feb	4	...	Hamfest, Knoxville, TN
Feb	11	...	Hamfest, Charleston, SC
Feb	11	...	Hamfest, Pensacola, FL
Feb	11	...	Hamfest, Arcadia, FL
Feb	25	...	Hamfest, Dalton, GA
Mar	4	...	Hamfest, Tuscaloosa, AL
Mar	18?	...	Hamfest, Marietta, GA
Mar	24-25	...	Hamfest, Columbus, GA

?=Date not confirmed. Several entries taken from SERA Journal.
Georgia locations are bold, Nearby locations are bold and underlined

METRO AREA NETS AND ROUNDTABLES

Mon	146.82	8:00PM	ARC Net
Mon	147.81	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net
* Mon	145.45	8:00PM	ARES Net
* Mon	145.41	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
* Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	Info Want Swap & Sell GARS
* Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	CW Practice Net - GARS
* Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
* Wed	145.41	8:00PM	QCWA Net
Wed	146.655	9:00PM	BSRG Net
Thu	146.88	8:00PM	Kennahoochie ARC
* Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC (1st thurs = 9:30)
* Thu	147.075+	9:00PM	CW Practice Net - GARS
Thu	145.41	9:30PM	AMSAT
* Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
* Sun	146.76	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC
Sun		9:00PM	W4DOC
Daily	146.76	Noon	Brown Bag Net
Daily	146.88	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn

* CONFIRMED This is a "living list" meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.



P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Ga 30226



GARS Meeting PROBABLY at previous site of WILLIAMS SEAFOOD on Buford Highway on the
3rd Thursday, February 16th. Listen to the Tuesday 8:00PM GARS net for details. Don't miss out! Be there.